

2 High Stepper Court, Apt. 406
Pikesville, MD 21208

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530


Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to ask that you give your support to the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I am a retired electrical engineer. I know computers, and I know Microsoft. I believe Microsoft was all right; in no way did it monopolize the market. Bill Gates' main strength was that he was simply quicker and smarter than the other fellows. Bill Gates recognized the need for standardized software programs and filled it. Then he marketed it brilliantly. There are any number of firms out there in other industries whose product is not necessarily better, it's just that they are smarter in promoting it and changing to fulfill public need. MBAs are taught this very lesson. Bill Gates was hauled into court out of jealousy, not any unfair business practices.

I also understand from the settlement, Microsoft will be opening up its source codes for the Windows operating system. This is a lot more than other firms would do. Microsoft has also agreed to a technical committee that will oversee Microsoft's compliance. Microsoft has more than paid for any sins it may have committed.

I urge you, for the good of the country, for business, for the general public, to give your support to this settlement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Bernard Gerber